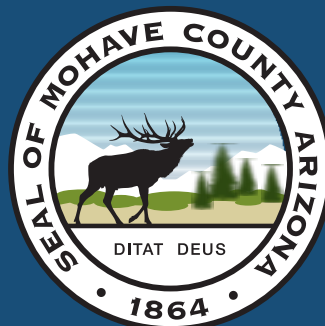


# Mohave County Courts

# ANNUAL REPORT FY 2024

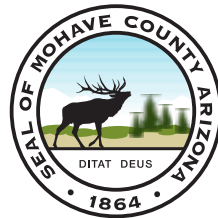




# Mohave County Courts

## ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024



# Message from the desk of the Honorable Steven Moss, Superior Court Presiding Judge



During this past year, the courts have experienced an increase in filings, successfully completed a large number of court and jury trials, and still found the time to implement new procedures and practices to enhance the delivery of justice. This report provides information on many of these new programs and highlights many of the accomplishments of staff and judicial officers. I express my appreciation for the continued hard work and efforts by all.

Court revenues have shown growth in the majority of the justice courts. In parallel, the court has been actively engaged in endeavors to enhance its technological capabilities throughout the county.

The diligent contributions of the judges and staff throughout the previous year have been truly commendable, as they strive to uphold the rule of law and ensure all changes in statutes and rules are implemented.

Their steadfast commitment and resilience amid growing challenges have ensured the timely and equitable administration of justice. This steadfast dedication transcends the courtroom, manifesting in various community outreach initiatives that aim to educate the public on legal procedures and rights.

Looking ahead, the court endeavors to enhance operational efficiency and embrace innovative solutions to meet the evolving demands of justice. Initiatives are underway to expand the integration of artificial intelligence in case management, a move poised to improve case processing and enhance the accuracy of legal proceedings. Furthermore, concerted efforts are being made to bolster access to justice for marginalized communities through technology and community legal services.

In conclusion, the preceding year has underscored the court's adaptability and resilience in the face of challenges, upholding the principle of justice for all. The future holds promise for sustained growth and advancement, fostering a legal system that functions effectively and promotes law and justice for all. We urge you to review this report, which outlines the ongoing endeavors to enhance court processes and procedures. Gratitude is extended to the Arizona Supreme Court, the County Board of Supervisors, and County Management for their unwavering support of the court and our shared mission. Our collective aim remains to effect positive change in the lives of individuals within the communities we serve each day.

*Steven C. Moss*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## **Section 1: Superior Court pages 4-13**

## **Section 2: Clerk of Court pages 12-14**

## **Section 3: Probation pages 15-21**

## **Section 4: Limited Jurisdiction pages 22-26**

## **Section 5: Statistics pages 27-29**

At its core, a courthouse is where justice is administered. It's the place where legal disputes are resolved, whether they involve criminal matters, civil cases, or family issues. People come to courthouses seeking resolution, fairness, and accountability. A courthouse symbolizes the principles of democracy and the rule of law. They stand as tangible reminders that no one is above the law, regardless of their position or wealth. When you see a courthouse, you're reminded that justice is blind and impartial.



# Superior Court

The **Court** is composed of **seven** elected judges and **four** appointed commissioners/Judge Pro Tems. Cases brought before the Superior Court typically fall into two main categories: **criminal** and **civil**. This court holds exclusive original jurisdiction over all cases involving dependent, neglected, and delinquent children under the age of eighteen. Moreover, it oversees the supervision of adults and juveniles under probation.



**Mission:** Deliver timely justice in an impartial, innovative, and professional manner.

**Vision of the Future:** Making a difference in people's lives in the communities we serve.

**Core Values:** Ethical - Accessible - Fair - Respectful - Efficient



## Celebrating Law Day 2024: The Voices of Democracy

As we mark Law Day on May 1st, 2024, we reflect on the fundamental principles of justice, equality, and the rule of law that are the cornerstones of our society. This year's theme, "The Voices of Democracy," recognizes that in democracies, the people rule. For nearly 250 years, Americans have expressed their political views and wishes by speaking their minds and voting in elections.

In commemorating Law Day, we honor the legal profession's role in ensuring access to justice for all. From defending individual rights to promoting civic engagement, lawyers and legal professionals play a vital role in safeguarding our liberties and promoting fairness in our legal system.

As we navigate the complexities of modern society, the importance of the rule of law cannot be overstated. It serves as the bedrock of our democracy, ensuring that no one is above the law and that justice is administered impartially.

On this Law Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to upholding the rule of law and fostering a society where justice prevails for everyone. Together, we can continue to advance the cause of justice, equality, and the rule of law in our communities and beyond. To help bring this importance to light, the Mohave County Superior Court hosted the 4th and 8th grade classes from Kingman Academy of Learning. Over a span of two days, about 120 students visited the court with their teachers, a judge and court staff to learn about the judicial system. During this time, the students engaged in a fun and interactive criminal mock trial with Judge Jantzen and Judge Demke. They learned and practiced each of the key roles in a trial which included the selected jury deciding upon a verdict in the actual jury deliberation rooms!



# Parent Education Course

All parents who are newly involved in a dissolution of marriage, separation, or annulment, or unmarried parents, that have requested the court to determine custody, specific parenting time or child support are court-ordered to attend an educational program focused on their children’s needs.

The purpose of the class is to educate persons about the impact of divorce on adults and children. The Supreme Court has adopted minimum standards for these programs that address the length and nature of the program, the qualifications of program providers and the means by which the program will be evaluated and maintained.

Beginning in February 2024, the Mohave County Superior Court adopted the online parent education class created by Pima and Maricopa County. This class meets the requirements set forth by ARS 25-351. In addition, feedback from participants have shown that it’s user friendly and appreciated since they can fit it into their own schedule without worrying about travel time or taking off work.

In Fiscal Year 2024, 596 individuals completed the course.

# Family Treatment Court: Pilot Program



Family Treatment Court (FTC) is a voluntary program for parents with pending dependency cases. The program enjoys support from DCS, as well as service providers like MIKID, Southwest Behavioral Health, Westcare, Rivyve, and Catholic Charities/Arizona Families First. We started in January 2024, and to date, we have had one successful graduate of the program. We currently have six parent participants in FTC.

Together with the FTC support team, each participant creates a network of support which helps them navigate the child welfare system while on their journey to recovery and reunification. Participants are twice as likely to be reunified with their children in dependency court and develop stronger relationships with their families and community.

We plan to expand this program to Lake Havasu City and Bullhead City in the near future.





## Extending remote and online services

As the 5th largest geographical county in the United States, Mohave County Courts are faced with many challenges to ensure our citizens receive the court services they need.

In today's courts, citizens increasingly expect access to remote services, and Mohave County Courts have successfully delivered on this expectation, with plans to further expand these offerings. During the 2023/2024-fiscal year, Mohave County Courts conducted over 6,814 remote hearings, enabling 44,237 participants which included attorneys, defendants, petitioners, witnesses, and even jurors—to appear remotely from locations across the globe.

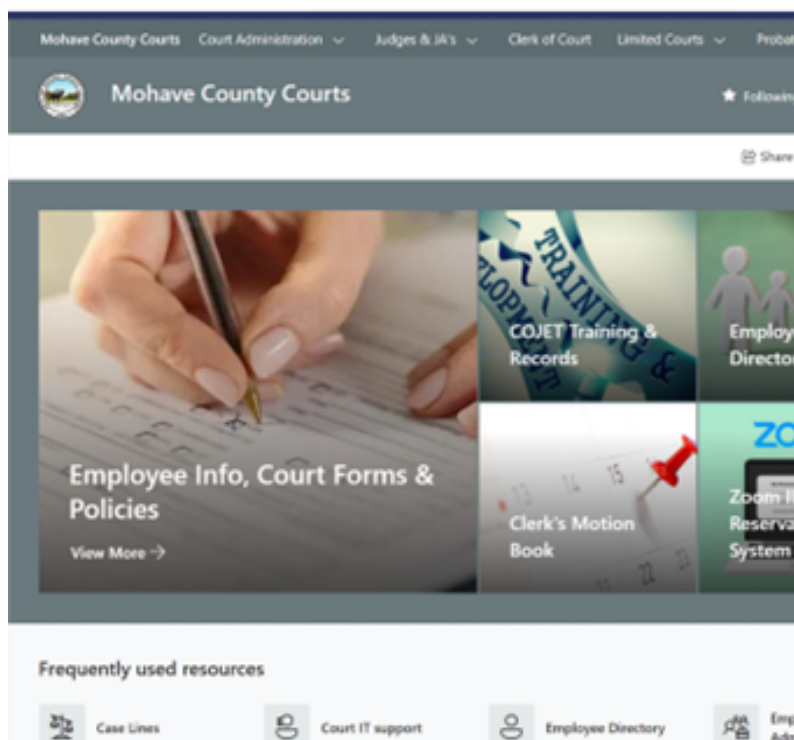
Meetings  
**6814**  
2535588 Meeting Minutes  
44237 Participants

1	United States	43102
2	Costa Rica	55
3	Mexico	44
4	Brazil	17
5	Canada	16
6	United Kingdom	11
7	United States Minor Outlying Islands	9
8	Guatemala	7
9	Australia	7
10	Germany	7

## Courts Successfully Rolls Out SharePoint

In a significant technological advancement, the Court IT Department successfully rolled out Microsoft SharePoint throughout Mohave County Courts, migrating over 300 users and 32 divisions. This initiative marks a pivotal moment in the organization's path toward enhanced security, recoverability, and technical efficiency, positioning our Courts at the forefront of court technology in the state. The benefit of SharePoint has been immediate and widespread, with several users and entire departments almost immediately utilizing the platform's full potential. These early adopters have demonstrated forward-thinking and adaptability, setting an example for the entire Court system in Arizona to follow.

This project has truly been a landmark achievement as the implementation of SharePoint for all data storage needs as well as application development using off the shelf development tools, represents a critical technical upgrade that significantly strengthens Mohave County Courts infrastructure. By centralizing application development, information management and collaboration, SharePoint and associated tools, have not only improved the security and recoverability of critical data but has also reduced technical debt, ensuring that Mohave County Courts is well-prepared for future projects at a reduced cost.



# Recognizing the Crucial Role of CASAs

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) are dedicated individuals that serve as beacons of hope and lend a voice to the voiceless. This is accomplished by advocating tirelessly for the best interests of children caught in the complexities of the juvenile dependency system. CASAs are often unsung heroes, volunteers who undergo continuous training to provide crucial insights and recommendations to judges handling cases involving children in foster care.

The appreciation for CASAs within the courts cannot be overstated. Judges rely on their impartial and thorough assessments to make informed decisions that directly impact the lives of these children. CASAs provide a unique perspective, delving into the nuances of each case, and ensuring that no child's needs or concerns go unnoticed.

Beyond their role in court proceedings, CASAs often serve as a steadying force in the lives of the children they advocate for. They offer emotional support, guidance, and a sense of continuity in what can be a tumultuous time for these children.

Additionally, CASAs bridge the gap between various stakeholders in the child welfare system by fostering collaboration among case managers, attorneys, behavioral health, and other professionals. This helps to assist in creating comprehensive plans that prioritize the well-being of the children involved.

Each year to help show our deepest gratitude for the CASA volunteers' dedication to serving as champions for children in need, the CASA staff organizes an appreciation event. This is a time for our judges and court staff to recognize the impact the CASAs have on the lives of countless children and families. This year a dinner was held at Casa Serrano in Fort Mojave. CASA volunteers along with their spouse were in attendance. To begin the evening, Presiding Judge Rick Williams spoke on how invaluable the work each CASA performs is to the court and the children they serve.



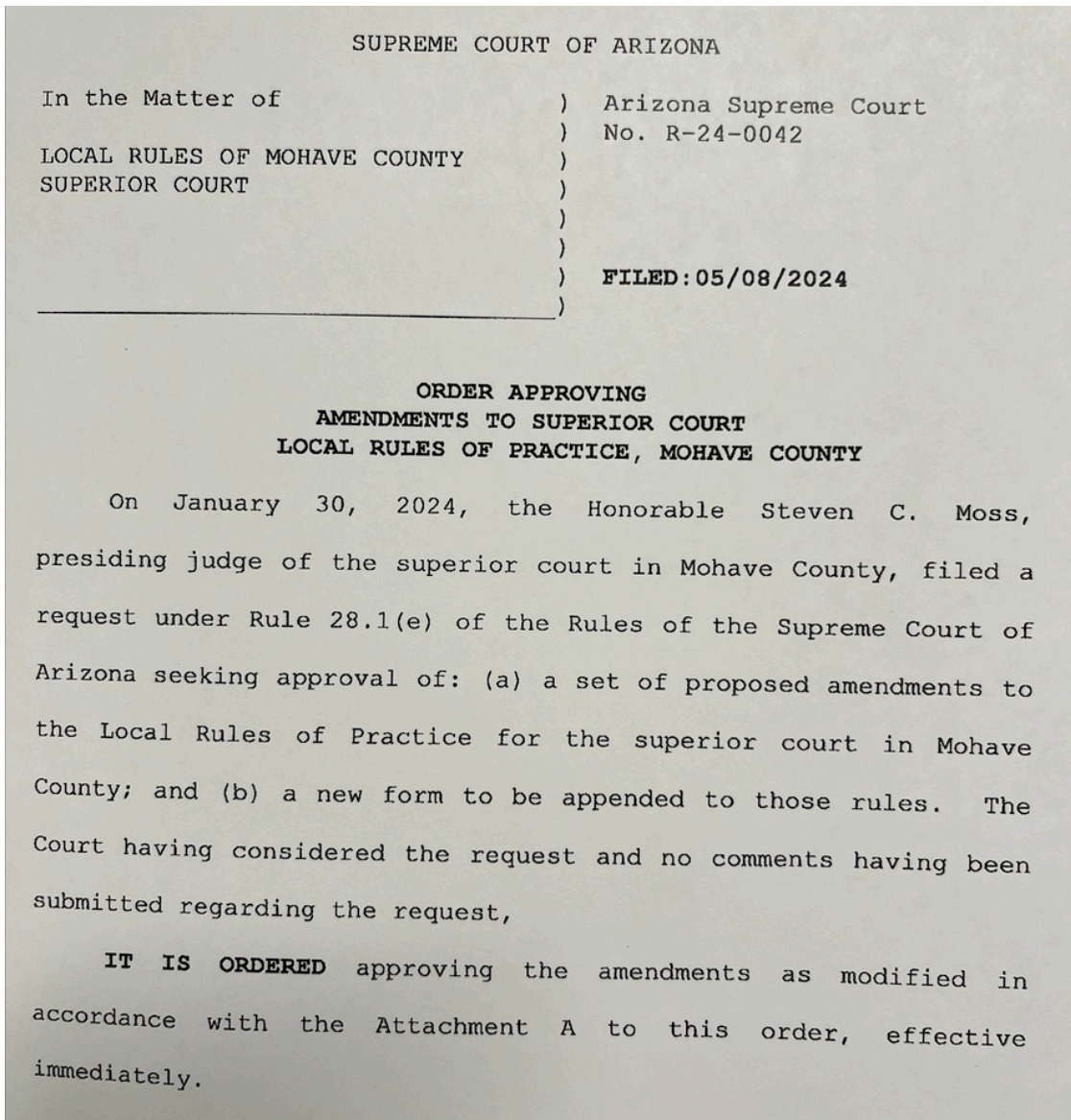


# Local Rules Updates

During this past year the Court undertook a complete review of the Local Rules of practice for the Superior Court. Under the leadership of Presiding Juvenile Judge Rick Williams and Associate Presiding Judge Megan McCoy committees were established to review the administrative rules, the civil rules, the criminal rules, and the domestic relation rules. Individual committees included judicial officers, judicial staff, and members of the local bar association. The individual committees met over a nine-month period to discuss and review the current rules of practice. At the end of this process extensive changes were made to all the rules.

Following the procedures outlined in Supreme Court Rule 28.1 the proposed new rules were approved by the local superior court judges and then posted on the Court’s webpage along with an invitation for public comment. Concurrently the local rules were sent to the Supreme Court clerk for review and circulation as outlined in the rules.

Then on May 8, 2024, the Supreme Court approved the amended Local Rules as submitted. The rules have been posted on the Court’s webpage and copies distributed to members of the local bar.



Superior Court



# All Rise Consultant

Judge Rick A. Williams is a consultant for All Rise, a national 501(c)(3) organization that promotes justice system innovations addressing substance use and mental health issues. All Rise provides training and technical assistance at local, state and national levels. Judge Williams has provided technical assistance for a treatment court program in Texas, and presented on effective incentives, sanctions and service adjustments for treatment courts in Maryland. In October, he will present juvenile treatment court topics like effective parental engagement, incentives and sanctions, and program/phase structure at a statewide conference in Pennsylvania. Judge Williams' collaboration with All Rise allows him to bring up-to-date scientific data and current evidence-based practices to Mohave County's treatment court programs.



## IT Staff Accomplishments

This past year has once again drawn focus to the Mohave County Court IT Department on a national stage. Their efforts with Remote Jury Trials, technology advancements made within the courtrooms and the remote connectivity services that are now offered to our community has placed Mohave County Courts in the spotlight for our innovation, vision, and local technical skill sets.

Through a nationwide challenge, the National Center for State Courts selected Mohave County Superior Court IT's courtroom design submission as one of 12 winners in the Court Space Redesign Challenge. As a recognized court, Mohave County Superior Court had the privilege of participating in a three-day workshop focused on designing the courtrooms and court spaces of the future.

Following this event, Mohave County Superior Court, along with three other selected courts, was invited to participate in a national webinar to discuss our vision and the future of courtroom and court space design.

In addition, in the past year, Mohave County Court IT Department has been selected to participate in various statewide committees and one National Committee focused on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the courts. This opportunity highlights Mohave County Courts commitment to using advanced technology to improve the judicial process.

One of Mohave County Courts main focus is implementing an AI-based system that converts voice to text for transcription. This tool will make court processes more efficient by quickly and accurately transcribing spoken words into written text.

As a member of these committees, Mohave County Courts will help shape how AI is used in courts across the state, ensuring that these tools are effective and ethical. This involvement solidifies Mohave County Courts position as a leader in adopting new technologies to enhance the justice system.



# Security Staff Improvements

Efforts to enhance security and provide a safe and secure facility for judges, staff, and the public to conduct business is critical for ongoing operations. Several improvements this past year included:

- **Access Control & Screening:** A new Network Video Recorder and 25 new cameras were installed in the Bullhead City Courthouse. New electronic swipe card access was installed in the North Canyon Justice Court.
- **Personnel Training:** Security staff and all court bailiffs received training on Repuls chemical spray. It is now available for their use. Bailiffs in LHC & BHC completed the Court Security Officer firearm academy.
- **Emergency Preparedness Plans:** Staff continue to update emergency response plans and security procedures. Security maintains regular communication with local law enforcement in all areas.

Customers Screened by Court Security	
Kingman Superior Court	64,591
Bullhead Judicial Facility	38,088
Lake Havasu Courts	49,697
Kingman/Cerbat Justice	27,022
North Canyon Courts	4,492
<b>Total</b>	<b>183,890</b>

# Felony Case Management Plan



In a continued effort to improve the efficiency and timely disposition of felony cases, and to support the case participants' rights to a speedy and final resolution of their criminal cases, the Criminal Case Management Committee has developed suggested Felony Case Management Plan as recommended by the National Center for State Courts. The goal of this plan is to provide for the timely and just resolution of cases pursuant to Rule 8.2 of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure and the time standards promulgated by the Arizona Supreme Court.

**Disclosure Deadlines:** Pursuant to Rule 15

### Hearings:

**Arraignment** - Pursuant to Rule 14.2

**Pretrial Conference** (Rule 16.3) Shall be held approximately 4 weeks after arraignment. Prior to this hearing the assigned prosecutor will be expected to have reviewed the case and extended any plea offer to defense counsel. If no offer has been made, the prosecutor will be prepared to explain the lack of any offer to the court.

**Status Conference** (Rule 16.3) Shall be held approximately 4 weeks after pretrial conference. Prior to this hearing, defense counsel will be expected to have reviewed any mitigation and relayed any counter offer to the prosecutor. At the status hearing, the Court will inquire regarding the progress of the case and the Court may continue the status hearing if the Court finds good cause. Otherwise, the Court will set the case for a change of plea hearing or a trial.

There will be either a **settlement conference** or **Donald hearing** in every case set for jury trial.



# Clerk of Superior Court

The Clerk of the Superior Court in Arizona plays a crucial role in ensuring the smooth functioning of the court system. Some of their primary responsibilities include case file management, fee collection, issuance of summonses, subpoenas, and marriage licenses, administrative duties, record keeping, and records management. The Clerk of the Court is an elected official.



Lto R: Della Hiser, Deputy Director, Christina Spurlock, Clerk of Court, and Megan Vigil, Deputy Director

Our mission is to cultivate harmony and teamwork in all that we do. Through commitment to these values, we strive to create an environment where individuals flourish, ideas thrive, and collective success is achieved.

Harmony  
Excellence  
Accountability  
Resourcefulness  
Teamwork



# LiveScan - Fingerprinting and Photographing

One of the responsibilities of the Court is to report criminal dispositions to the Department of Public Safety. We report on every single charge on a defendant's case whether that disposition is "Guilty" or "Acquitted" or "Dismissed" so that criminal history information is accurate and complete. Mohave County was the pilot court to utilize electronic disposition reporting using the AJACS case management system. Step 1 of criminal history reporting starts with law enforcement who prints a defendant at the time of the arrest. Step 2 of criminal history reporting lies with the prosecutor who reports what charges have been filed against a defendant. **Step 3 of criminal history reporting is when the court reports on the disposition of those charges.**

To improve on the percentage of criminal charges which are reported to DPS on cases where a defendant may not have been arrested or incarcerated for their charges, the Clerk's office obtained grant funding to purchase a LiveScan machine. Superior Court judges can direct a defendant to report to the Security office on the first floor of the Courthouse to be fingerprinted and photographed (booked) on their charges. This innovative process began earlier this year but is now 100% complete with the acquisition of a special camera used to capture a 'mug shot'.

Superior Court judges have more flexibility now that there is an option to complete fingerprinting and photographing on site as opposed to sending defendants to the jail for that step. The Clerk's office and the Judicial Officers who have a criminal caseload are proud to work with the Mohave County Sheriff's office to ensure that criminal history and disposition reporting remains at the highest level of accuracy and efficiency in the State.



## Fee Deferral

The filing fees for domestic relations cases are often more than struggling families can pay all at once. For this reason, there are laws in place which allow litigants to pay their filing fees in payments or defer payment until the conclusion of their case as opposed to paying the entire fee up front. Statewide, a high percentage of domestic relation cases filed are accompanied by an application to defer or waive the filing fees. In the past, this application was only able to be submitted in paper. Consequently, the filers had to appear in person at the Courthouse or mail their documents instead of being able to utilize the eFiling functionality that exists for filers that don't have a fee deferral.

To address this issue and make justice more accessible for fee exempt filers, functionality was developed so that Applications for Fee Deferral / Waiver could be submitted through the eFiling system. Mohave County was the pilot court for the project and has been accepting these submissions since May 2024. The development and implementation of the functionality was a challenge, but modifications and improvements were made along the way to make the process more user friendly. The final product is anticipated to be made available Statewide in the very near future. Mohave County is proud to have been able to participate in this endeavor to increase access to justice for domestic relations customers.

Clerk of Court



# Jury Process

In Mohave County, the Clerk of the Court is the designated Jury Commissioner. Historically, the Mohave Clerk has summoned using exclusively a two-step process, which entails sending qualifying questionnaires and creating a pool of jurors based on those that are returned.

In August of 2022, Mohave Superior Court participated in a workshop to explore the possibility of converting our current jury process from two-step to one-step. Three other counties were also in attendance: Santa Cruz, Yuma, and Pinal. After the workshop, with some reservations, in true Mohave fashion, we were determined to explore the process. We devised a plan to implement with one criminal division and then set a timeline to roll it out to all other trial divisions.

In September of 2022, we received our new one-step jury pool. The Honorable Derek Carlisle, Division II, was able to conduct three one-step jury trials between November 2022 and December 2022. By February 2023, all four criminal trial divisions were on the one-step summoning. From September 2022 till the current date, we have managed two different jury pools: a two-step pool and a one-step pool. After analyzing the data points, we determined that the one-step process is less efficient and more costly than a two-step process. However, some changes made due to this exercise benefit current jury operations and will remain in place.

# Leadership Workshops

At the end of 2023, the Clerk's Office was presented with a supervisory skills-building project, Dare to Lead Workshop. Dare to Lead Workshop is based on the book, Dare to Lead: Brave Work. Tough Conversations. Whole Hearts. Written by Brené Brown. This book really helped participants in the program to dive into a multitude of topics such as: ways that emotional responses can be used in the workplace, embracing your vulnerability, eliminating the instinct to avoid difficult conversations, and so much more. The entry group consisted of nine volunteers who learned quite a bit about themselves and their peers.





# Probation



L: Josh Frisby, Juvenile Court Director, R: Ronnie Walker, Chief Probation Officer

Probation strives to protect the public, serve justice, and change lives by fostering sustainable, positive changes in youth and adults, by providing access to evidence-based resources, interventions, and practices. We are dedicated to promoting personal responsibility, pro-social growth, and family stability using a strengths-based community partnership with child welfare, educational, and behavioral health care systems.

Vision: Creating Opportunities for Pro-Social Growth.  
Motto: "Service to others is the highest calling."

Values:  
Accountability  
Opportunities  
Fairness  
Community Safety  
Professionalism  
Compassion



Probation



# New Chief Probation Officer

The court was excited to announce the appointment of Ronnie Walker as the new Chief Probation Officer on February 3, 2024. With an impressive background in military service, his dedicated service in the department and a commitment to community well-being, Ronnie brings fresh perspectives and leadership to the department. His dedication to rehabilitation, fairness, and public safety aligns with the mission of the department.

Ronnie entered the U.S. Air Force in 1988. He was only 17 when he became a Life Support Specialist, providing survival equipment and Survival Evasion, Resistance & Escape (SERE) training. Soon, Walker became the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of Survival Training for Air Force One. He fondly remembers Harrison Ford's huge 1997 action hit, "Air Force One." He even had the opportunity to be there, work on it and provide info for the film. At the conclusion of that special tour, he was moved to Beale AFB in California becoming certified as a U-2 Launch and Recovery Supervisor.

Walker took on even more specialized work when he was promoted as the NCOIC of a unique unit tasked with training U-2 reconnaissance pilots in survival, rescue and recovery operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. His success continued as he then moved to Altus AFB in

Oklahoma to run life support operations for C-17 initial pilot upgrade training. In 2006, Walker moved to the Air Force Element of the Defense Intelligence Agency, acting as an Operations NCO and Operations Coordinator for Defense Attaché Offices at US Embassies in Nouakchott, Mauritania, Nicosia, Cyprus, The Hague, and other locations. After completing these amazing assignments, he retired in 2012 after 24 years of military service.

Walker's retirement was short-lived. He and his wife, Jennifer moved to Bullhead City where he was hired to be a Juvenile Probation Officer in 2012. He later became an Adult Probation Officer in the same office. He was responsible for supervising felony offenders sentenced to probation in the county. Walker took on additional county tasks by becoming the Probation Department's Safety and Training Officer/Fugitive Apprehension Unit Supervisor. He was responsible for firearms, defensive tactics, taser, rifle and munitions training for all assigned probation officers. As a member of the Fugitive Unit, Walker was sworn in as a Special Deputy U.S. Marshal, responsible for apprehending both local probation and nationwide federal absconders. Walker officially became the Mohave County Chief Probation Officer after 11.5 years with the department.

"As the Chief, I will do everything I can to give probation officers all of the tools, training and support that they need to continue the vitally important mission of protecting the citizens of Mohave County, serving justice as an officer of the Superior Court, and changing the lives of the probationers we are tasked with supervising."





## Officer Swearing-In

Every six-months new probation officers take an oath of office and are sworn in by the Presiding Judge. The Loyalty Oath is administered to new officers to recognize their commitment to serving justice. Adult and Juvenile Probation strive to protect the public, serve justice, and change lives.



## Juvenile Health and Wellness Court

The Juvenile Probation office Health and Wellness Court continues to innovate in supporting participants and their families. Recently the Mohave County Health Department joined our juvenile treatment court teams. Our participant families meet with the health department to identify their strengths and needs, and learn about community resources and supports. Juvenile probation has started collaborating with MIKID to develop a plan to provide family support to justice-involved youth.

## Adult Recovery Court

The Mohave County Health Department joined our adult recovery court teams this year. All participants in the program are required to meet with the health department at least five times during the program to identify their strengths and needs, learn about the dangers of opioid use, develop life skills like budgeting, hygiene, nutrition, and safe sex. The health department also provides our participants with periodic education sessions on these topics.



## Women Making History Recipient



On March 3, 2024, Amber Freed, Deputy Probation Officer Senior was chosen as the 2024 recipient for Women Making History in the Public Service category. She was recognized and received the award in front of her friends, family, and community, at St. John's Methodist Church. She was recognized for her contributions to Mohave County Probation Department in multiple capacities for the past 23 years. Amber started her career as an adult probation officer before following her passion to work with youth and transferring to the juvenile side. She served as the Kingman JIPS officer for several years. Amber progressed from an officer to a DPO Senior where she supervised Juvenile Intake, Standard, and JIPS officers and staff. Amber has been a key contributor to the department's officer safety programs through her service as a Defensive Tactics Instructor and a member of the department's first warrants team. Amber was eventually promoted to Juvenile Detention Administrator and served in that capacity for eight years leading staff through many changes and challenges. Amber has been involved in the implementation of multiple projects and programming over the years and has contributed to the success of the department, staff, youth, and families in doing so.

In addition to her decades of outstanding public service to the department and court, Amber is highly involved in her community. She has coached high-school softball where she mentored many players in the community. She also participates in community groups like the "Kingman Cancer Care Unit" and Daughters of Mohave County Pioneers". She stated that she finds joy in her "why" as a probation officer and helping others do the

same. She is honored to have been recognized like her mother and late mother-in-law who are past recipients of this award.

## New Security Enhancements

The department made a major policy change this year by replacing all of the OC Defense Spray (pepper spray) that all officers carry with a new product called REPULS. This new product reduced the possibility of long-term medical issues with subjects, and also allows for fast decontamination without long lasting side effects. We were one on the first three departments in the state to issue the new equipment.





## Gloria Dusek Compass School Earns Accreditation

After hard work and extensive efforts by Probation Supervisor Amber Freed and Juvenile Detention Administrator Sara Colbert, the Gloria Dusek Compass School has earned accreditation by Cognia™, a nonprofit organization that provides quality assurance for schools, school districts, and education service providers. Cognia nationally recognizes districts that meet rigorous standards focused on productive learning environments, equitable resource allocation that meets the needs of learners, and effective leadership. Earning accreditation from the Cognia Global Accreditation Commission means that the school is accredited, and that the Gloria Dusek Compass School is recognized across the nation as a school that meets Cognia Standards of Quality and maintains a commitment to continuous improvement. School accreditation as conferred by the Cognia Global Accreditation Commission provides the Gloria Dusek Compass School a nationally recognized mark of quality for our school. It demonstrates to our community our commitment to excellence, our openness to external review and feedback, and our desire to be the best we can be on behalf of the students we serve. To earn Cognia accreditation, a school district also must implement a continuous process of improvement and submit to internal and external review. Schools in good standing can maintain their accreditation for a five-year term. Dr. Mark A. Elgart, president and CEO of Cognia, stated, “Cognia Accreditation is a rigorous process that focuses the entire school and its community on the primary goal of preparing lifelong learners in engaging environments where all students can flourish. The Gloria Dusek Compass School is to be commended for demonstrating that it has met high standards and is making progress on key indicators that impact student learning.” The Gloria Dusek Compass School is its own separate school district operating inside the Juvenile Justice Support Center in Kingman, AZ and serves all of Mohave County youth who are detained. The Opportunity School is part of the Gloria Dusek Compass School and is for those youth that have been long term suspended or expelled from other local high schools and need to continue their education or participate in credit recovery. The school is overseen by the Juvenile Detention Administrator and uses Acellus online learning platform to reach our wide variety of student needs. Gloria Dusek Compass School is currently recruiting for a licensed teacher to be a part of this learning institution and help guide these youth towards success.

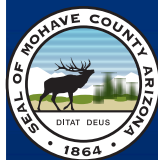
## HIDTA Recognizes Mohave Juvenile Probation for Fentanyl Prevention Work

Mohave County Juvenile Probation was recently recognized for its efforts to provide fentanyl awareness and education throughout our community. The goal of the work is to educate youth, families, and the public of the dangers associated with fentanyl use and to prevent overdose and death. The training includes an introduction to naloxone as an emergency intervention for fentanyl overdose.

Arizona HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) staff provided training and materials to Mohave Juvenile Probation staff in April 2022. Since that time, juvenile probation officers have delivered fentanyl awareness training to youth and families involved with the juvenile court, youth in juvenile detention, and to court and probation staff during COJET conferences. This training has also been provided to service organizations in the community such as Rotary and Lions Clubs as well as local churches. Juvenile Probation facilitates the training to both youth and parents participating in Project Impact, a county-wide school diversion program designed to reduce suspensions and formal court involvement for Prop. 207 drug offenses.

At the August 9, 2024 Committee on Probation meeting, Arizona HIDTA Director, Dawn Mertz and Juvenile Justice Services Division Director, Joe Kelroy presented the Department with a certificate in recognition of its efforts to build connections, foster relationships, and positively impact families in the spirit of collaboration and compassion.

Probation



# Probation Continues Strong Work in Sex Trafficking Training and Prevention

The Mohave County Sex Trafficking Advocacy and Awareness Team is a team of dedicated probation officers who are passionate about combating sex trafficking and misinformation of this brutal crime. Many team members are also part of the local Mohave County Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Coalition, "Futures Without Fear," and play a vital role in sustaining the coalition. The coalition is overseen by Arizona Youth Partnership and comprised of community stakeholders, professionals, and volunteers from throughout the county.

Throughout the year, the probation team participated in ongoing training, as well as facilitated trainings for local groups and COJET classes. On September 24-26, 2023, the first annual Arizona Human Trafficking Summit was held in Phoenix, Arizona. The summit included a presentation from our local MCSTAAT members where they dissected a local and recent child sex trafficking case and shared the information with probation and law enforcement throughout the state.

In Fall 2023, the group along with the local coalition hosted the 2nd annual "Stop the Traffick Walk" in Kingman, AZ. In Spring of 2024, the team partnered with ASU STIR and AZDPS to host our first Spring Break event in the Lake Havasu Channel. Resources and information were provided to the public including the potentially vulnerable population of spring breakers. This event will be duplicated throughout the state for spring break because of local ideas and efforts to thwart sex trafficking. There is hard work done by staff each day to recognize sex trafficking warning signs, refer victims to trauma informed services, and prevent further victimization.

## ACE Graduate

On November 8, 2023, Joshua Frisby, Director of Juvenile Court, completed the requirements to graduate from the Arizona Court Executive Program. The ACE Program is comprised of over fifteen (15) days of in-person instruction at the Judicial Education Center and covers a diverse span of leadership development topics. Some classes require practical application assignments or even a written exam. Josh is one of the few employees to graduate from the ACE program from Mohave County in many years. Congratulations on your hard work. We are grateful for the competent and knowledgeable leader you are and your prioritization and investment in staff development.



# VirTra Training

The Probation Department recently installed a virtual reality-based police training simulator in the Bullhead City Probation Office, manufactured by VirTra Systems of Mesa, AZ. The simulator is comprised of 3 large screens covering 180 degrees of vision, as well as a high-quality sound system to recreate realistic environments for the officers. The system is delivered with hundreds of intense and immersive scenarios with numerous branches to allow for changes to the scenario based on the actions of the officers. The company stated, "The demands on law enforcement to make critical decisions in tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving situations require that the human performance aspect of cognitive neuroscience and human physiology are taken into account as part of the police training methodology." In layman's terms, the new simulator puts officers in high-stress, fast paced situations designed to test their reactions, and the simulation is escalated or deescalated depending on those reactions. Officers are tested on verbal, lethal and non-lethal responses to various situations which can be recorded by the system and played back on the screens for the officer to see and hear their own reactions to each scenario. The AOC certified firearms and defensive tactics instructors in the probation department believe experiencing these high-paced, dynamic moments in a controlled training environment before they must confront them out in the public leads to much better decision making by officers under stress.

Trainers have the ability to set up a virtual shooting range, using the same targets that officers are accustomed to using. This is helpful for new officers who require extra training or officers needing more time to enhance their firearms skills. Officers can also train when weather conditions would otherwise force trainers to cancel scheduled outdoor firearms training. The weapons used in the simulator are actual weapons removed from service and refurbished with VirTra technology to make them unable to fire real ammunition. The weapons have a CO2 system installed that simulates the recoil felt when firing the weapon, adding to the realism presented in the simulated range as well as the included scenarios. Officers are also able to use weapon mounted lights, modified flashlights, chemical irritant sprays, Tasers, and rifles for the Fugitive Apprehension Unit.

VirTra is leading to better trained, better prepared probation officers in the field. All field probation officers are required to attend at least one VirTra training session per calendar year, along with their AOC required eight hours each of firearms and defensive tactics training annually. The training has been well received by officers. Many of them arrange their schedules to attend more than the one required session because they like the ability to test themselves in realistic scenarios, be critiqued, and then try the scenario again with the knowledge gained through training. The Mohave County Probation Department is one of a handful of probation departments in the nation who have the ability to use this technology within the department. Most officers are only exposed to this system during their initial academies, or not at all. The department has offered to have other local law enforcement agencies come in to receive training, and to train with probation officers so that each department can better understand different department polices, tactics and procedures. These training collaborations will lead to better working relationships and familiarity with each other in the field.



# Limited Jurisdiction Courts

Mohave County has 5 Justice of the Peace who are elected for a four-year term. They handle matters involving civil lawsuits where the amount in dispute is \$10,000 or less, landlord and tenant controversies, small claims cases, and the full range of civil and criminal traffic offenses, including DUIs. The justices of the peace serve on many State committees and have implemented many recovery court programs with the goal of helping individuals in the county make improvements in their lives. Those currently serving in the County are:

Lake Havasu City Justice Court - Judge Jill Davis

Bullhead City Justice Court - Judge Jon Moss

Kingman/Cerbat Justice Courts - Judge Dave Huerta and Judge David Wayt

North Canyon Justice Court - Judge Barbara Brown



## Case Types:

City & County Ordinances  
Civil

Criminal Misdemeanor  
Evictions

Felony Initial Appearances  
Felony Preliminary Hearings

Injunctions Against Harassment  
Juvenile

Orders of Protection  
Small Claims  
Traffic







# Lake Havasu City Municipal Courthouse Grand Opening and Dedication

Lake Havasu City hosted a grand opening and dedication for the new Lake Havasu City Municipal Courthouse on February 29, 2024. The Speakers included Chief Justice Robert M. Brutinel, of the Arizona Supreme Court, Mohave County Presiding Judge Steve Moss, Congressman Gosar's district 9 Director, Penny Pew, Lake Havasu City Mayor Cal Sheehy, and Judge Mitchell Kalauli, City Magistrate. Vice Chief Justice Ann A. Scott Timmer, along with Judicial officers, and City Councilmembers in attendance.

Lake Havasu City Magistrate stated "This project was truly the sum of a great many parts, from the contractor FCI and the architect DFDG being fantastic to collaborate with, to our city IT and other city departments working tirelessly to complete this project. We now have a beautiful courthouse that functions well and matches the excellence of our judges and staff. This is a building to be proud of. We are grateful to the mayor and city council for their foresight and commitment to this project and to the citizens of Lake Havasu City for their support."

After the ceremony, a ribbon cutting was held with the Havasu Chamber of Commerce. The public was invited to join City officials and staff in the dedication and celebrate the grand opening of the Lake Havasu City Municipal Court.



Limited Jurisdiction



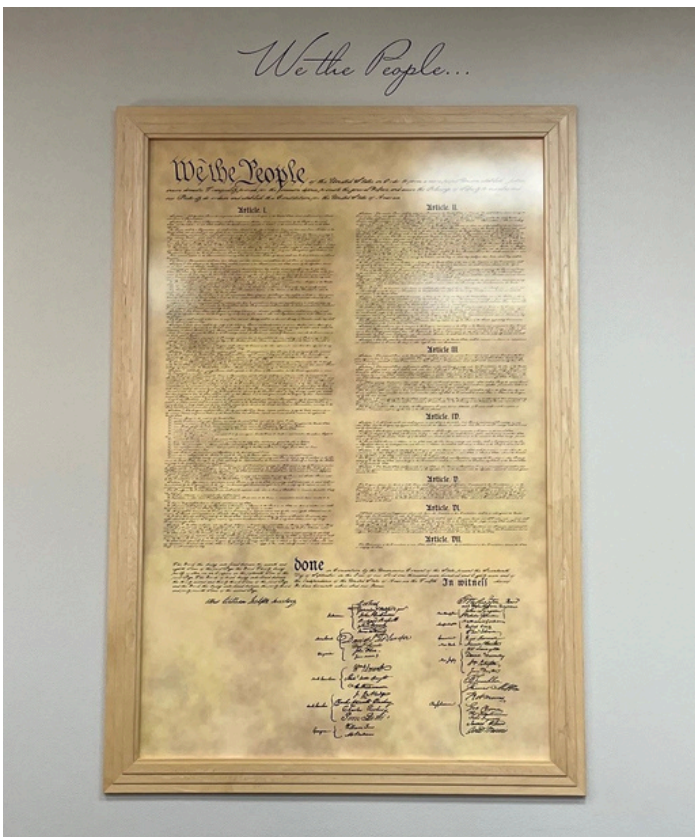
# Quality of Life Treatment Court

As Mohave County continues to struggle with the Opioid epidemic, the Kingman/Cerbat Justice Court continues to work towards solutions to help early offenders gain sobriety and become a productive member of our community. We are proud to announce that with the help of the Mohave County Board of Supervisors and the Opioid Settlement funds we can continue this program.

The Quality of Life Court began several years as a pilot program geared towards individuals suffering from Opioid or Substance Use Disorder. The program was made possible through several grants that are administered by the Mohave Substance Treatment Education Prevention Partnership (MSTEP). The intent has been to target those who were in the beginning stages of the disorder or were low level offenders. The Program involves case management that is handled by court staff, peer support, probation, and area service providers. By continuing to collaborate with stakeholders and leveraging community support, we can continue making a positive difference in the lives of those affected by addiction and help restore individuals back to a place of dignity.

The Kingman Program currently has 15 active participants. Out of these 15 active participants 4 participants are in their final phase. The Program has graduated more than 20 people with zero recidivism.

The Lake Havasu City Justice Court launched The Quality of Life Drug Treatment Court in the spring of 2023. This program has been instrumental in providing support and rehabilitation to justice involved individuals struggling with substance abuse. Over the course of the year the Quality of Life Court has witnessed significant success in helping participants achieve sobriety. From an initial intake of seven participants, we are proud to announce that three individuals are set to graduate this fall, having successfully completed their training while maintaining sobriety. These participants have demonstrated immense dedication, resilience, and commitment to their recovery journey. Their achievements serve as a testament to the effectiveness of the Quality of Life Court program in assisting individuals in overcoming addiction and leading healthier lives.





## Veterans Treatment Court

The Kingman Veterans Treatment Court graduated its 100th Veteran from its program on June 12, 2024. Navy Veteran Jeffery Auman was the 100th Veteran to successfully graduate from the Kingman Veterans Treatment Court which began on December 9, 2015, under the direction of Kingman City Magistrate Jeffrey Singer. The objective of the Court is to give Veterans who faithfully served their country a second chance by offering them treatment for their issues that brought them into the criminal justice system instead of incarceration. Pictured is Jeffery Auman and Judge Singer along with Jeremiah Cota from Congressman Paul Gosar's office as Auman is presented with Congressional recognition for his achievement in the Veterans Treatment Court.

The Lake Havasu Veterans Treatment Court has had three hundred fifty-one (351) veterans admitted since its opening in 2013. Currently 21 veterans are actively participating in the program. The program recently held a bi-annual softball game with the Kingman Veterans Court at the Lake Havasu City Rotary Park. The Lake Havasu City Veterans Court Team was assembled from a collection of Veterans Court participants, Veterans Court graduates, Peer Mentors, and members of the Veterans Court staffing team, to include Judge Kalauli and Judge Singer. With LHC Veterans Court team at bat and holding a lead of 14 - 5 score, Kingman Veterans Court Judge Singer called, "MERCY". The winning trophy is currently on display at the Lake Havasu City Municipal Court.



Limited Jurisdiction





The Mohave County Courts have adopted digital evidence technology to improve how cases are managed. Over the past several years, this system has helped Superior Courts in Mohave County process evidence more accurately and efficiently. This past year, this technology was also introduced to the county's Limited Jurisdiction Courts within our North Canyon Justice Court, Bullhead City Justice Courts and Lake Havasu City Justice Courts. With the use of this digital evidence portal, courts can now handle evidence more reliably, reducing errors and speeding up case processing. Additionally, this technology supports both in-person and remote appearances, making court proceedings more flexible and accessible, aligning with our strategic objectives.



# Court Statistics



Superior Court Revenue & Stats		
Case Type	Revenue	Filings
Admin.	\$866,122.51	2892
Civil	\$424,813.37	2777
Criminal	\$5,408,906.03	2049
Domestic	\$317,076.58	1202
Juvenile	\$240,571.73	740
Probate	\$319,586.75	2892
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,577,076.97</b>	<b>11014</b>

Mediation		
Outcome	Count	Percentage
Full Agreement	155	40%
Partial Agreement	7	2%
No Agreement	90	23%
Temporary Plan	53	14%
Failure to Appear	58	15%
Dismiss/Vacate	24	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>100%</b>

Justice Court Revenue & Stats			
Case Type	Revenue	Case Type	Filings
Lake Havasu	\$1,235,878	Civil	6643
Kingman	\$2,223,955	Misd.	4971
Bullhead	\$1,238,233	Felony	5174
North Canyon	\$584,853	Criminal Traffic	2205
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,282,919</b>	<b>Civil Traffic</b>	<b>16315</b>
		<b>Total Filings:</b>	<b>35308</b>

CASA	
Successful Recruitments	4
# of Hours Served on a Case	1607
# of Miles Driven by volunteers	13124
# of Open Dependency Cases	237
# of Children in Open JD Cases	344



# Courts Statistics

## Adult Probation Stats

New Probation Cases - Standard	836
New Probation Cases - IPS	29
Standard Probationers revoked and reinstated to IPS	18
Full Term Dispositions	360
Early Term Dispositions	87
Earned Time Credit (ETC)	3
Revoked to DOC/Jail	213
Judicial Termination	56
On average direct standard probationers	1307
On average direct IPS	30
Pre-sentence investigation reports written	1068
Probationers performed community service	16884 hours

## Juvenile Probation Stats

Referrals/Complaints	1415
Petitions Filed	507
Diversions	240
Dispositions	162
ADJC Commitments	13
Placed on Standard Probation	131
Placed on JIPS	31
Transferred/Direct File to Audit	4
Extended Jurisdiction	39
Admissions to Detention	344

## Adult Recovery Court

Screened	61
Admitted	50
Graduated	23
Currently Enrolled	49

## Health & Wellness Court

Screened	3
Admitted	2
Graduated	2
Currently Enrolled	6

## Juvenile Recovery Court

Screened	11
Admitted	7
Graduated	3
Currently Enrolled	13



